MANY-FEATHERED BLACK BIRDS ARE DESCENDING.
KEIOU ERA FOURTH YEAR (1868) --- IN THE LAND OF THE NORTH, WHICH IS BEING FLOODED BY THE WAVE OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION...
KARASU
YG MEDIA MIX BIG SERIALIZATION PROJECT! 44 PAGES WITH THE OPENING IN COLOR, AN IMPRESSIVE BEGINNING--!
FOLLOWING AN UNFULFILLED DREAM...
A GROUP OF MEN ARE PROTECTING THEIR NORTH EASTERN HOME, DEFYING THIS ERA UNTIL THE VERY END.
THE NAME OF THIS BLACK FIGHTING FORCE, WHICH HAS BEEN BURIED IN THE DARKNESS OF HISTORY, IS...

CHAPTER 1『Daydream Believer』
THE SENDAI DOMAIN SHOCK TROOPS.
BURIED IN THE SHADOWS OF HISTORY, THE STRONGEST THREE-LEGGED CROW OF THE LAST YEARS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE--.*
KARASU
AUTHOR: MACHIDA KAZUYA ARTIST: YANAGI YUKISUKE
CHARACTER DESIGN: OOGURASHI MASAHITO
*NOTE: THIS IS A REFERENCE TO YATAGARASU, WHICH IS "CONSTRUED AS EVIDENCE OF THE WILL OF HEAVEN OR DIVINE INTERVENTION IN HUMAN AFFAIRS" ACCORDING TO WIKIPEDIA, AND IS OFTEN DEPICTED AS A THREE-LEGGED CROW.
CHECK OUT THE THEATRICAL EDITION "CROWS" INFORMATION
X 0-BOYS INTERVIEW IN THE OPENING OF THE MAGAZINE!!

A LITTLE KID LIKE THAT, OUT BEGGING...
NOBODY CAN AFFORD GIVING TO THE POOR THESE DAYS...
I HAD A DREAM...
TAICHI, BROTHER...

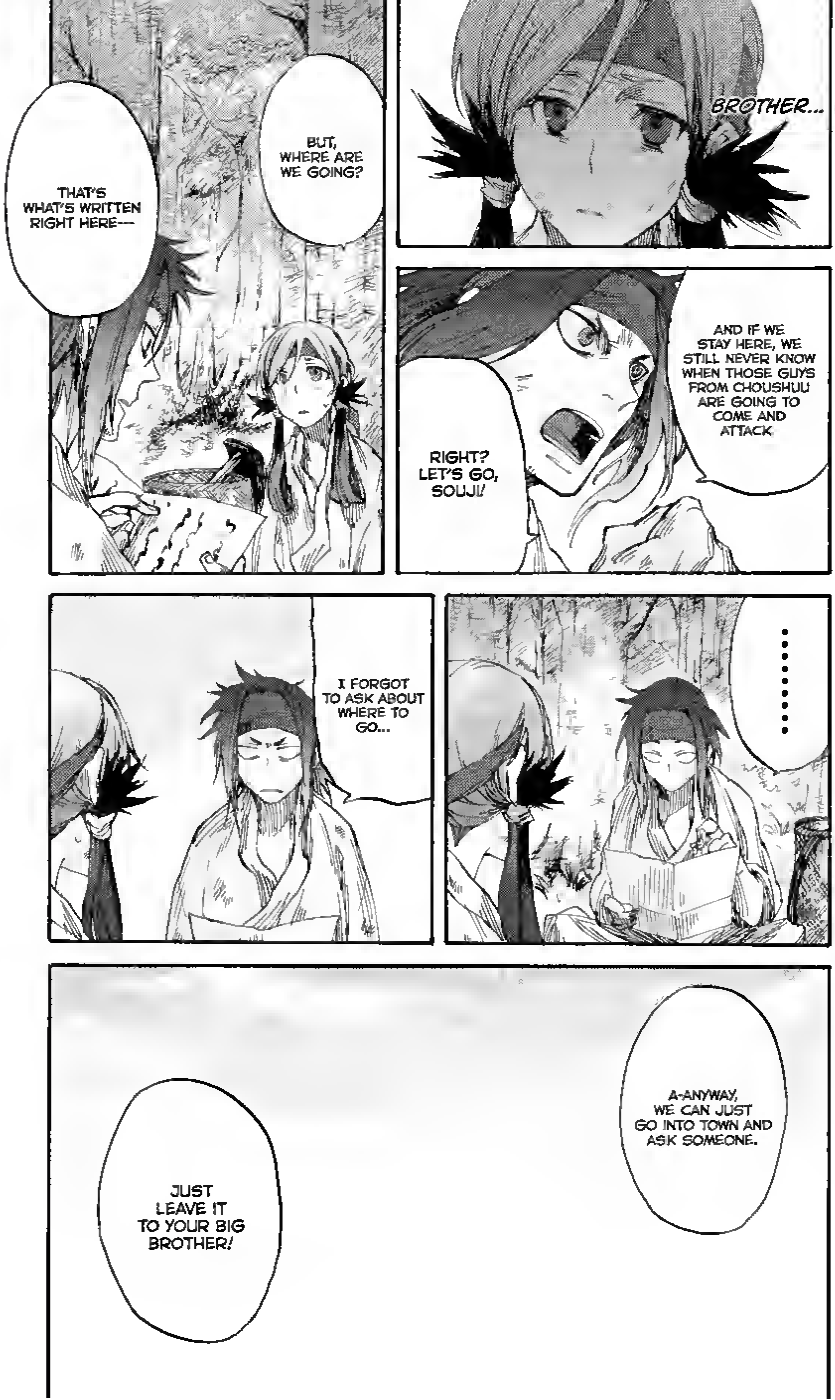
AND A BIG CROW GRABBED HOLD OF US AND FLEW UP.
WE FELL IN A HOLE, AND WE WERE TREMBLING WITH FEAR
A GOOD DREAM OR A BAD DREAM?
BUT SURELY THAT CROW MUST HAVE SAVED US
AND THAT'S WHERE I WOKE UP..
IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE CAN TAKE AND EAT, BUT...
I SEE... SOUJI, YOUR DREAM'S NOT TOO FAR OFF THE MARK....
.. WAS ATTACKED BY SOME GUYS FROM CHOUSHUU.
TAMIO'S VILLAGE...
BROTHER?

EVERYTHING WAS DESTROYED...
IT WAS HORRIBLE...
WHAT ABOUT TAMIO...?
NO IDEA...
OR MAYBE, HE'S ALREADY...
MAYBE HE RAN AWAY...
SOUJI...

SAMURAI!
LET'S BECOME...
TAICHI, DID YOU SOMEHOW BECOME ABLE TO READ WITHOUT TELLING ME?
NO, I CAN'T READ!
I JUST ASKED SOME PEOPLE TO TELL ME WHAT IT SAID.
TAMIO'S DAD DIED HOLDING THIS.
SAMURAI —?
.....

THE SENDAI DOMAIN IS GATHERING MEN TO FIGHT AGAINST THE LOYALIST ARMY!
I HEAR ITS THE KIND OF TROOPS EVEN PEASANTS LIKE US CAN JOIN!
GOING TO WAR AGAINST THE CHOUSHUU AND SATSUMA SAMURAI...?
YEAH!
THEY'RE WAVING THEIR FLAG AROUND AND DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT.
I'M GONNA BEAT THOSE CHOUSHUU FOXES.
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN HELD A SWORD, AND NOW YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WAR...
AND IF WE SERVE REALLY WELL, WE'LL EVEN GET AN EXTRA REWARD!
WE'LL BE ABLE TO EAT UNTIL OUR STOMACHS ARE FULL!
DIDN'T YOU SAY BEFORE THAT THE LOYALIST ARMY ARE THE ONES WITH THOSE HUGE ARTILLERY?
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO AND THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY!
!

OUR RICE AND VEGETABLES ARE BEING STOLEN BY ANNUAL TRIBUTE.
EVEN WHEN IT'S LUNCHTIME, IT DOESN'T MATTER, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT.
IT'S OKAY TO LIVE AS PEASANTS UNTIL WE DIE, THEN?
OUR MOM AND DAD, WHO DIED FROM ILLNESS
MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD TO DIE.
EVEN IF WE WORK AND WORK
LIFE NEVER GETS EASIER.
IF WE HAD MONEY...
IN THE END, MONEY RULES THE WORLD


BROTHER...
BUT, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THAT'S WHAT'S WRITTEN RIGHT HERE—
AND IF WE STAY HERE, WE STILL NEVER KNOW WHEN THOSE GUYS FROM CHOUSHUU ARE GOING TO COME AND ATTACK
RIGHT? LET'S GO, SOUJI!
I FORGOT TO ASK ABOUT WHERE TO GO...
.....
A-ANYWAY, WE CAN JUST GO INTO TOWN AND ASK SOMEONE.
JUST LEAVE IT TO YOUR BIG BROTHER!

HUH?

YEAH! WE'RE GONNA BECOME SAMURAI!
YOU KIDS WANT TO JOIN THIS FORCE?

I CAN'T READ.
WE WANT TO GO TO THIS PLACE, BUT..
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S WRITTEN HERE?
OH.

RIGHT, SOUJI?

HE'S MY LITTLE BROTHER.
HE GETS MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL ALL THE TIME, THOUGH.
IS THAT KID A GIRL?
BUT IT'S SUCH A ADMIRABLE THING, TAKING CARE OF YOUR BROTHER...
GOOD GRIEF, SOUJI'S FIXATED ON THOSE DUMPLINGS.
THIS IS READ AS "HIROMAE INN".
ANYHOW, IF YOU BECOME A SAMURAI, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STUDY YOUR LETTERS...
WANT TO EAT SOME DUMPLINGS, TOO?
IS THAT ALRIGHT?
HEY, SOUJI!!
REALLY!?!
I'M ACTUALLY A MEMBER OF THE FORCE, I'LL GUIDE YOU THERE.

HOW IS IT, SIR?
IT HAS A GOOD FEEL TO IT.
I LIKE IT.
THANK GOODNESS!
I STITCHED THE EMBROIDERY ON THE BACK WITH MY WHOLE HEART.
SORRY FOR MAKING SUCH AN UNREASONABLE ORDER.
IT WAS FOR A GENTLEMAN WHO'S GOING TO EARNESTLY STAND AGAINST SATSUMA AND CHOUSHUU.
IT WAS A HONOR.
呉服 姫野屋

YOU! HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO BUY OIL?
OH, OUR CUSTOMER CAME IN, HUH?
GUILTLESS PEASANTS HAVE BEEN. .
BUT IT SEEMS THOSE CHOUSHUU FOXES HAVE ATTACKED ANOTHER VILLAGE!
IN THIS WAY, WE WILL SETTLE THE SCORE.
RIGHT NOW, I HAVE UNDERLINGS LOOKING FOR THEM.
I HEARD YOU'RE GATHERING MEN TO FIGHT AGAINST THE LOYALIST ARMY, RIGHT?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR OUR CUSTOMER
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE STANDING IN THE DOORWAY TALKING WITH ANKO ON YOUR FACE
YOU'RE WRONG! I WAS OUT DELIVERING A KIMONO!
I'M GOING TO PROTECT THE NORTHEAST MY OWN WAY
WE CAN'T DEPEND ON THE COWARDLY COMPANIES OF THE SENDAI DOMAIN.
YES.

LET'S EAT THESE AGAIN, LATER
ONCE WE'VE SAVED SOME MONEY.
I NEVER KNEW DUMPLINGS WERE THIS GOOD!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE ON A SKEWER, THEY'RE SO SWEET!
IF YOU BECOME A SAMURAI, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BUY YOURSELF WHATEVER YOU WANT TO EAT.
WHOA, AWESOME!
THE OTHER PEASANTS TOO... I WANT TO GIVE THEM FOOD.
BROTHER...
I THINK... WE SHOULD GO HOME.
I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR US TO BECOME SAMURAI...

TAICHI, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD KILL PEOPLE?
IN A WAR...
YOU KILL PEOPLE, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW.
FOR ME, HONESTLY... I DON'T KNOW.

CROWS...
CROWS USUALLY GATHER AROUND THE BACK OF HIROMAE INN.
OOH!
SOUJI, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR DREAM WAS A GOOD OMEN!
I'M GLAD WE CAME!
.....

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, SIR.
IN THIS TOWN, THERE'S A BIG GROUP OF TOUGH PUNKS FOR YOU.
RIGHT NOW THEY'RE ALREADY GATHERED IN FORCE.
AT THE "HIROMAE INN".
"HIROMAE INN"?
WE'VE ARRIVED.
AH, I'M SO NERVOUS!

OH, YOU GOT TWO OF THEM, YASUKICHI.
HOW'D YOU GET THEM TO COME WITH YOU?

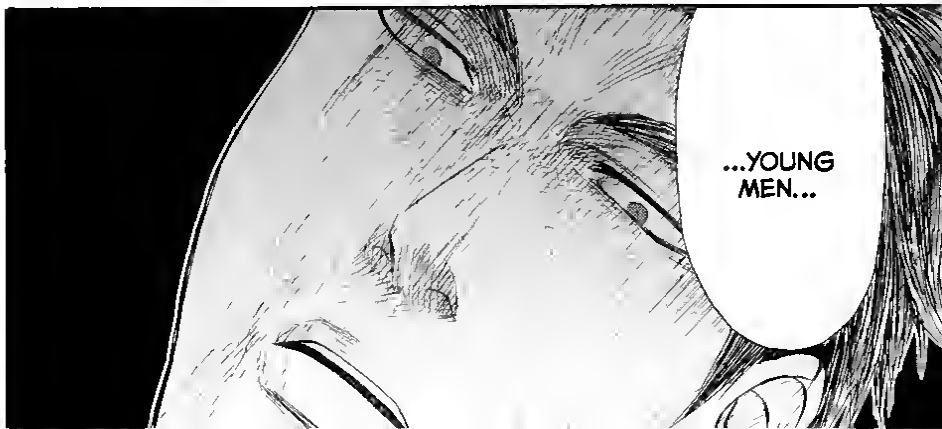
SO YOU WERE OUT THERE EATING DUMPLINGS, YOU LAZY ASS?
I SAW SOME KIDS EARLIER WHO WERE HOPING TO JOIN YOUR TROOPS. THERE WAS A GUY WHO TOLD THEM THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HEAD TO "HIROMAE INN".
OUR HEAD-QUARTERS ARE AT KASHIWAGI-YA.
OH? IS THAT RIGHT?
WHERE IS THIS "HIROMAE INN"?
.....
I'VE LIVED IN THIS VILLAGE FOR MANY YEARS, BUT. .
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY "HIROMAE INN".
YEAH, I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD, TOO.

.....

YEAH.

S-SO THIS IS IT, RIGHT?
THIS IS WHERE THE MEN TO FIGHT THE LOYALIST ARMY ARE GATHERED?

THEY'RE GATHERED


...YOUNG MEN...

I DON'T LIKE IT HERE.
BROTHER, LET'S GO HOME...
LET'S GO HOME, BROTHER!
DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A SAMURAI?
YOU'RE SENDAI DOMAIN SAMURAI RIGHT?
W-WHERE'S THE COMMANDING OFFICER?
WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS?
BRING ME TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER!!

I'M HERE!
CHOUSHUU COMMANDO TROOPS
AOYAMA TERUMA
.....
OH... QUITE THE TREASURE, YASUKICHI.

PEASANTS!!
AOYAMA-SAN, SINCE IT'S 4 RYOU FOR 1 PERSON
AND 8 RYOU FOR 2 PEOPLE
Y-YOU GUYS ARE THOSE CHOUSHUU...!
TOO BAD FOR YOU, I'M NOT A SENDAI SAMURAI.
AND BESIDES, SINCE THESE TWO ARE QUITE A PRIZE
HOW ABOUT 10 RYOU FOR THEM?

YOU'RE A BAD GUY, YOURSELF.
TRICKING KIDS AND BRINGING THEM HERE...
AH... GA...
GU... AH...
WE DO THAT SO THE CROWS WILL CLEAN UP THE CORPSES FOR US.
OKAY.
THROW HIM AND THE DEAD KIDS IN MY ROOM OUT BACK TOGETHER...

ALRIGHT!
WELL NOW... WHICH SHOULD I PICK FIRST...
...SORRY.
!
I PICK YOU, LITTLE BOY.
DON'T TOUCH SOUJI!!

BROTHER...
BE QUIET, NOW.
BROTH..
GU..
BROTHER!!
SINCE I'M GOING TO FEED YOU BOTH TO THE CROWS.
IN THE END, YOU TWO ARE GOING TO BE TOGETHER
...TSU...

AND WE'LL STAY PEASANTS TILL WE DIE...
WE WERE BORN AS PEASANTS
BROTHER...
*NOTE: HE MEANS A PEDOPHILE
WE AREN'T ABLE TO BECOME SAMURAI
HAHA, YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT "BULGE" YOU'VE GOT THERE.
ARE YOU "THAT SORT"* OF GUY, TOO?
HUH?
WHAT IS...?
NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.

SLASH!

FINALLY.
IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I'VE FOUND YOU
IT'S NOT "HIROMAE INN".
IT'S "HIROSAKI INN".
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
YOU SHOULD TEACH YOUR SUBORDINATES HOW TO READ KANJI.

SENDAI DOMAIN SHOCK TROOPS COMMANDING OFFICER
HOSOYA JUUDAYU NAOHIDE.

THERE'S THE LOYALIST ARMY AND THE REBEL ARMY.
BUT YOUR GROUP HERE HAS JUST DECIDED TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
...YOU
THE GUY WHO IS BUILDING AN ARMY OF PEASANTS TO STAND AGAINST CHOUSHUU DOMAIN'S LOYALIST ARMY.
PFF.
GO AHEAD AND TALK.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE ARGUING WITH YOU.

DON

BOTSU
AGAA!?

ZAN

CAN'T YOU FEEL THE DIRECTION THINGS ARE FLOWING THESE DAYS?
IT'S COMPLETELY POINTLESS, YOU KNOW
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HURT THE LOYALIST ARMY, YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE FLOW
DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING, TOO?
!
!!

I, ALSO, HAVE NO DESIRE TO ARGUE WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
GU... NU...
UAAA!!
GUAAA

WHAT MY TROOPS NEED
ARE PEOPLE THAT ARE ABLE TO RISE UP AND FLY BY THEIR OWN POWER FROM ANY SITUATION
.....
DO YOU BOYS HAVE WINGS?

DON'T TOUCH...
!
MY BROTHER...

THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE KEIOU ERA (1868)---

IN THE LAND OF THE NORTH, WHICH IS BEING FLOODED BY THE WAVE OF THE MEIJI RESTORATION...
MANY-FEATHERED BLACK BIRDS ARE DESCENDING
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A GROUP OF MEN ARE PROTECTING THEIR NORTH EASTERN HOME, DEFYING THIS ERA UNTIL THE VERY END
I REMEMBERED...

THE NAME OF THIS BLACK FIGHTING FORCE, WHICH HAS BEEN BURIED IN THE DARKNESS OF HISTORY, IS
...THE SENDAI DOMAIN SHOCK TROOPS.
THE CROW IN MY DREAM
IT HAD THREE LEGS...
COMMONLY KNOWN AS
GOING AGAINST THE CURRENT OF THE TIMES, AND STANDING BY HIS OWN CONVICTIONS, HOSOYA JUUDAYU NAOHIDE, THE STRONGEST THREE-LEGGED CROW OF THE LAST YEARS OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE, IS HERE!!
THE CROWS BRIGADE.
YOUNG GANGAN POPULAR SERIALIZATION!

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